



Sustainability Advisory Committee

**MINUTES
SAC COMMITTEE
August 28, 2014
CITY HALL A/B CONFERENCE ROOM**

ROLL CALL:

Diane Meyer, Chair
Pamela Fournier
Richard Marx
Joe Miller
Joanne Boulton, Aldermanic Representative
Rich Lintz, Aldermanic Representative

ABSENT:

Gina Nakis
Stan Braude
Alex Bornstein
Brad Bernstein

CITY STAFF:

Dale Houdeshell, Director of Public Works
Daneen Schlereth, Recording Secretary

Diane opened the meeting at 5pm, with the approval of the April Meeting Minutes.

Diane welcomed Tony LaMantia from Republic Services to the meeting and handed the meeting over to Tony for his presentation on the new CNG vehicles.

Tony provided a handout of information on the new CNG vehicles and provided a brief overview of the new CNG vehicles. I have attached the handout to the back of the minutes.

Tony informed the committee Republic Services teamed up with Laclede Gas, and starting putting in their own gas lines and they currently have 85 of their 350 vehicle fleet converted over to natural gas. Republic started with Auto Side Loaders which are the trucks that lift from the sides. Since Clayton has back door service, these trucks couldn't be used. Republic wanted to get trucks out to Clayton as soon as possible so they converted several of their rear load trucks to natural gas and are currently running them in Clayton

Diane asked what form the vehicles take. Tony referred to the front page of the package; there is a picture of a charging station. Tony informed the committee that Republic Services built their own station like in the picture. The trucks run on compressed liquid gas, they have a slow fill and a fast fill. The difference with our station in comparison with the City of Bridgeton which has converted many of their trucks over to natural gas for their Public Works Department they have to go to the airport fueling station which takes more time and less efficient. Republic Service wanted to provide the best service possible to their customers.

The trucks are utilizing more aluminum to make the truck lighter and in turn will be less wear and tear on streets. Tony said the way of telling if the truck is natural gas or not, the gas tanks are located on top of the truck. Tony said the trucks are definitely more environmentally friendly, they are a lot quieter and with less emissions fuel, the trucks are being less noticed by the public

Tony said Republic hopes within the next 3-4 years they will have an entire fleet of natural gas vehicle trucks.

After Tony's presentation the committee had a general conversation about different natural gas vehicles and different cities currently using them with Tony. A few general questions regarding recycling also was discussed.

PLATINUM LEVEL LEED CERTIFICATION

Dale informed the committee the city wanted to discuss this item with the committee prior to spending the money. However the committee didn't meet and it was time sensitive. The city went ahead and spent some of the committee's allocated funds to purchase green power LEED points for our LEED Certification. Dale informed the committee the city found another company to go with and ended up spending only half of what was originally anticipated of \$1500. The total amount spent was \$847.72. The city has purchased LEED points from AmerenUE also but decided to purchase more from this company which helped us get additional LEED points for the 10 S Brentwood building. Purchasing these LEED points brought us up to the Platinum level. Dale said after the Art Fair the city will be working with someone to get some type of plaque made to commemorate our level of certification.

UPDATE ON THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

Joanne asked if we had the chance to get the information on the City's website.

Dale informed the committee yes it is under the Sustainability field, however Patty DeForrest is working with Susan Renard from the Parks Dept. to get an article with a little more detail on the website.

Dale said he felt the milkweed is important but so is the cull flowers in the median are also important because that's where they get the nectar.

Joanne discussed with the committee about an email that she received from Tom Reddick, who lives in her ward. Tom is an attorney that represents soybean growers. He said there is a major concern for the lack of milkweed in the area, milkweed apparently is a pollinator. Joanne said Tom offered some of his milkweed seeds, if the city would be willing to plant some in the planters on the boulevards.

The committee had a general conversation on several areas in the city that they feel would benefit the planting of milkweed. Joanne asked Dale if he could find out where milkweed is already planted. Dale said he would check with Susan Renard and Gary and see if we could narrow down some locations.

Pam informed the committee there is a website that creates signs to place in areas that milkweed has been planted. The signs state that this area is a Monarch Waystation which provides resources necessary for monarchs to produce to sustain their migration. I printed off information on the Monarch Waystation Program and have attached a copy at the end of the minutes. The website address is www.monarchwatch.org.

The committee thought the signs were a great idea. Joanne suggested with fine out where we have the milkweed first before we go further with this.

Joanne said she found an article from the Missouri Botanical Gardens that they are working with the City of the St Louis. Apparently the City of St. Louis is launching a citywide initiative to help connect people and urban nature. The **STL Milkweeds for Monarchs** initiative goals are to 1) increase monarch butterfly habitat and 2) help people experience the splendor of monarchs in neighborhood parks and spaces. This initiative will advance a priority in the Mayor's Sustainability Action Agenda: to foster an enhanced connection between people and urban natural resources. Access to nature can reduce stress and anxiety, nourishes the imagination, and provides important learning opportunities. **STL Milkweeds for Monarchs** also aligns with the City's Sustainable Neighborhood Initiative. Creating monarch gardens is also an opportunity to enhance a community's sense of place and to build relationships between neighbors. Mayor Slay has committed that the City will plant 50 monarch gardens, and is challenging the community to plant an additional 200 monarch gardens in 2014 to commemorate our 250th birthday year. In partnership with community plant and butterfly experts

Pam said this project is Catherine Werner's baby. Joanne said she reached out to her, but hasn't received a return phone call yet.

Joanne suggested instead of recreating the wheel, she thought it would be a great idea for us to put a link to the Botanical Gardens page on our website to get the information out to the residents. I did speak with their public affairs officer Katie O'Sullivan and she did give us permission to link to their page. She did ask if we would forward her our article for our website that will have their link into first before we post it. Joanne said their website has some great articles regarding the monarch butterflies.

I have attached a copy of the article Joanne is referring to at the end of the minutes.

The committee continued to discuss ideas on getting the monarch butterfly information out to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Diane informed the committee Jackie Coleman resigned from the committee because she moved out of Clayton. Pamela asked if we need to recruit more members for the committee since a lot of us tend to go out of town and then we have to cancel the meeting. Diane said she believes its 2 representative per ward.

Joanne said the committee can have up to 15 members on the committee. So we could have more than 2 per ward.

Joanne informed the committee she had requested that the Board of Alderman look at the tree ordinance again and have it revisited it. Diane said the city has one but didn't involve the committee when writing it. Pam asked why, Joanne said its regarding construction and the removing of trees. She said she just want to let the committee know she was requesting the Board to review again.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Next meeting scheduled for **Thursday, October 24, 2014**

cc: June Waters, City Clerk